NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

CONTENTS

No. 118 RALEIGH, N. C. SEPTEMBER 15, 1952

SEPTEMBER GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CROP SITUATION

Rainfall during August was relatively heavy in most sections of the State. As a result, prospects for most growing crops improved materially during August. The most progress was made by late hay crops, pastures, fruits and nuts, truck crops, soybeans, tobacco and sweetpotatoes. With the exception of late seedings, corn did not benefit very much from the August rains.

Weather conditions delayed harvesting of tobacco from two to four weeks, depending on the particular area. Growers report that tobacco is more difficult to cure than usual which has resulted in lowering quality of leaf.

Cotton picking is well underway in Southern Coastal and Southern Piedmont Counties. Boll weevil infestation has been high in most areas since the rather frequent rains in August. The emergence of grass in the middle of cotton rows may increase the loss from boll rot.

Farm labor supplies are still reported as short, however most farmers have been successful in getting necessary work done. Many farmers have exchanged work with neighbors in order to meet peak seasonal labor requirements such as harvesting tobacco.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Prospects for flue-cured tobacco production improved during August. This year's North Carolina flue-cured crop is estimated at 922,790,000 pounds. This is 69,750,000 pounds more than estimated production on August 1.

A crop of 922,790,000 pounds would be 5.6 percent less than the record 1951 crop of 977,640,000 pounds, but 200,054,000 pounds or 27.7 percent more than the average 1941-50 production of 722,736,000 pounds.

If a flue-cured crop of 922,790,000 pounds is realized a yield of 1,237 pounds per acre would result. This compares with the record 1951 yield of 1,325 pounds and the 1941-50 average yield of 1,120 pounds.

General rains during the first week of August resulted in tobacco taking second growth and it was not uncommon for plants to double in height soon after these rains. In many instances fertilizer under the plants had not been wet prior to the August rains. The rains caused leaves to develop a dark green color and harvesting of the crop was delayed from two to four weeks in some areas. In fact there is some spec-

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COTTON REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1952

As of September 1 the 1952 Tar Heel cotton crop was placed at 510,000 bales. This is the same as the forecast on August 1 and compares with 542,000 bales harvested in 1951 and the 10-year (1941-50) crop of 523,000 bales. Acreage for harvest is now estimated at 693,000 acres -- 3,000 acres more than was harvested in 1951 and 113,000 above the acreage in 1950. The 10-year average acreage harvested is 728,000 acres. Abandonment since July 1 is estimated at 1.0 percent -- slightly less than average. Lint yield per acre is now placed at 353 pounds, compared with 376 pounds in 1951; 149 pounds in 1950; and the average of 341 pounds.

Rains during August revived plant growth but added very little prospective production. The added foliage, if cotton is not defoliated, could result in rather heavy losses from boll rot. August weather prevented effective poisoning and on September 1 boll weevils were present in large numbers in all sections of the State and boll worms are becoming active in many counties. Boll worm infes-

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CORN PROSPECTS LOWEST SINCE 1944

North Carolina's corn crop, estimated at 55,075,000 bushels as of September 1, showed no change from prospects a month earlier. Rain was adequate over most of the State during August but it came too late to appreciably improve the near drought-stricken crop. Current production prospects are 19 percent below 1951, 8 percent below the 1941-50 average, and are the lowest for any year since 1944.

An average yield of 25.0 bushels per acre is expected this season - - the lowest since 1945 and the only time since 1946 that the State average has fallen below 30.0 bushels per acre. Last year's yield averaged 31.0 bushels. The 10-year average is 26.5 bushels per acre.

Drought damage is evident in all sections of the State, however, the Piedmont as a whole, was hurt most. Prospects are

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

COTTON: CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1, 1952, ALL STATES

State	Acreage for Harvest 1952 Crop	Sept. 1 Condition			Lint Yield Per Acre			Production (500# bales)		
		Average 1941-1950	1951 Crop	Indicated 1952 Crop	Average 1941-1950	1951 Crop	Indicated 1952 Crop	Average 1941-1950	1951 Crop	Indicated 1952 Crop
	(000)	Percent			Pounds			(000) Bales		
N. Carolina	693	75	82	77	341	376	353	523	542	510
Missouri	490	77	69	81	406	302	402	362	309	410
Virginia	22	--	--	--	364	357	327	21	14	15
S. Carolina	1,065	69	82	61	293	389	250	651	871	555
Georgia	1,382	68	79	61	236	317	240	686	931	690
Florida	52	69	83	71	180	250	212	13	32	23
Tennessee	814	76	78	68	373	334	304	549	534	515
Alabama	1,473	71	76	61	277	299	241	899	909	740
Mississippi	2,363	71	75	71	333	329	325	1,652	1,608	1,600
Arkansas	1,865	72	77	66	339	295	296	1,373	1,249	1,150
Louisiana	884	65	77	72	290	391	369	524	760	680
Oklahoma	1,100	65	61	40	166	150	100	455	462	230
Texas	10,114	72	63	59	183	166	166	3,020	4,074	3,500
New Mexico	296	88	86	94	485	415	486	157	273	300
Arizona	666	90	88	92	489	705	764	250	803	1,060
California	1,399	92	92	93	606	640	652	627	1,765	1,900
Other States	15	-	-	-	390	246	361	14	8	11
United States	24,693	72	74	69	267.6	271.9	270.0	11,775	15,144	13,889

PEANUT ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

On the basis of reports from growers as of September 1 North Carolina's peanut crop for picking and threshing is estimated at 248,750,000 pounds. This is the same as estimated production on August 1.

A crop of 248,750,000 pounds, if realized, would be 66,460,000 pounds or 21.1 percent less than the 1951 crop and 16.9 percent below the 1941-50 average production.

Yield per acre is currently estimated at 1,250 pounds from 199,000 acres. This compares with the record yield of 1,330 pounds last year and the 10-year average yield of 1,090 pounds.

Present indications are that dry-hot weather damaged peanuts much less than any other principal crop. Information from growers indicates that the crop has pegged well. Army worm infestation has occurred in some fields, although no serious damage appears to have occurred.

SOYBEAN PROSPECTS IMPROVE

The outlook for soybean production on September 1 showed considerable improvement over a month ago. Based on growers' September 1 reports a yield of 15 bushels is currently estimated. This compares with a yield of 16.5 bushels in 1951 and the 1941-50 average of 12.8 bushels.

August weather brought much needed rainfall to the important soybean producing areas of the State. In some sections insects, principally army worms, had infested the crop and were doing considerable damage to foliage. Weather from role through harvest still holds a major roll in determining the outcome of the crop.

Current indications are that a total of 303,000 acres will be harvested for beans this year which will be a record high acreage and compares with 300,000 acres in 1951 and the 1941-50 average of 243,000 acres.

GRAIN SORGHUMS FAIR

The condition of grain sorghum as of September 1 indicates that a crop of 1,035,000 bushels will be harvested this season. If such a crop materializes it will be the largest of record for the State, comparing with 990,000 bushels produced last year and 290,000 bushels for the 1941-50 average.

An average yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is expected this season. The 1951 average yield stands at 30.0 bushels while the 10-year average is 25.8 bushels.

Grain sorghums, grown principally in southern Piedmont areas, sustained rather heavy damage from the extremely hot and dry conditions which developed during July. Generally, August rains tended to darken the heads and cause some mildew in the crop, but did not affect production appreciably.

CORN PROSPECTS *(Continued)*

rather variable in the Mountains, ranging mostly from poor to fair. A near-normal crop has been produced in some central and northeastern Coastal Plains counties.

Because of the poor prospects for grain from the corn crop and the necessity for salvaging as much feed as possible, diversion of the crop to fodder and ensilage is showing a marked increase in many Piedmont and Mountain areas this year.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION *(Continued)*

ulation in the Old and Middle Belt as to whether all the crop will be harvested before killing frosts.

Estimated production by types is as follows: Type 11: Production in Type 11 (Old and Middle Belt) is estimated at 345,740,000 pounds. This compares with production of 339,300,000 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average production of 267,016,000 pounds. Type 11 yield per acre is estimated at 1,180 pounds. This is 10 pounds more than the 1951 yield and compares with the 10-year average yield of 1,049.

Type 12 (Eastern Belt) production is estimated at 460,800,000 pounds as compared with 510,860,000 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average production of 368,522,000 pounds. Type 12 yield per acre is estimated at 1,280 pounds which compares with 1,435 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average yield of 1,159 pounds.

Type 13 production is estimated at 116,250,000 pounds. This compares with 1951 production of 127,480,000 pounds and the 1941-50 average production of 87,198,000 pounds. Average yield per acre is estimated at 1,250 pounds compared with 1,385 pounds last year and the 10-year average yield of 1,137 pounds.

Type 31 (Burley) production is estimated at 19,404,000 pounds. This compares with 1951 production of 21,350,000 pounds and the 1941-50 average production of 14,098,000 pounds. The burley yield is estimated at 1,540 pounds compared with 1,750 pounds last year and the 10-year average of 1,420 pounds.

Extended dry weather reduced yield prospects in the Burley Belt. Growth of the burley crop occurred mostly during August after the receipt of rainfall during the first week of August. Some areas, especially parts of Madison County, received little or no rainfall during August.

Harvesting of the burley crop should become fairly general by September 15. Some of the crop may be harvested before it is completely ripe in order to avoid the possibility of frost damage.

PECAN PRODUCTION ABOUT AVERAGE

Pecan growers in North Carolina have indicated that prospects as of September 1 point to a crop amounting to 2,470,000 pounds. This is only slightly higher than last year's 2,435,000-pound crop and the 10-year average of 2,414,000 pounds.

COTTON REPORT *(Continued)*

tation was mostly light as of September 1. Picking got under way in southern counties the last week of August. Heavy rains and strong winds have knocked some cotton down, especially in southern Piedmont areas, increasing the danger of loss from boll rot.

For the Nation as a whole, a production of 13,889,000 bales is indicated based upon September 1 conditions. This estimate is based upon an indicated yield per acre of 270.0 pounds from 24,693,000 acres for harvest. Approximately 1,413,000 bales of the 1952 crop had been ginned to September 1. Last year the United States produced 15,144,000 bales of cotton from 26,687,000 acres, averaging 271.9 pounds of lint to the acre. The ten-year (1941-50) average yield is 267.6 pounds and 11,775,000 bales production.

RECORD HIGH AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production on farms in North Carolina totaled 152 million pounds during August. This was a record production for the month and was 3 percent above the 148 million pounds produced in July and 4 percent above August production a year ago.

The increase in total production from July was due almost entirely to the remarkable improvement in pastures, since August production per cow for past years has usually shown little change or has been seasonally down from July. Production per cow averaged 412 pounds compared to 402 pounds in July and 408 pounds in August a year ago.

PROSPECTIVE SWEETPOTATO CROP SECOND SMALLEST SINCE 1871

Although favorable August weather greatly improved the outlook for the 1952 sweetpotato crop in North Carolina, the combination of small acreage for harvest and below average yield is expected to result in the second smallest crop in 81 years. The smallest crop for this period was produced last year.

Yield per acre is currently estimated at 90 bushels. This compares with a yield of 94 bushels in 1951 and an average of 106 bushels for the 1941-50 period. Comparatively the yield indicated for this year's crop is the lowest since 1936 when an equally low yield was realized.

An estimated 42,000 acres of sweetpotatoes are being grown for harvest this year. This is an increase of 2,000 acres from last year but is still the second smallest acreage grown since 1870. If the September 1 estimated yield of 90 bushels per acre is realized a crop of 3,780,000 bushels would result. This compares with 1951 production of 3,760,000 bushels.

SEASONAL DROP IN EGG PRODUCTION NOTED

August egg production in North Carolina was seasonally down from the preceding month. Farm flocks produced a total of 93 million eggs in August compared to 100 million in July and 90 million in August a year ago. The greater total egg production in August this year over August last year was due to more layers on farms and a slightly higher rate of lay.

There were an estimated 7,309,000 layers on farms in August, or about 200,000 more than in July and about 100,000 more than in August, 1951. The gain in numbers from July this year results mostly from additions of laying pullets to flocks.

The rate of lay for August was 1,277 eggs per 100 layers and compares with 1,333 for July and 1,246 for August a year ago.

COMMERCIAL APPLE CROP IMPROVES

Production from North Carolina's commercial apple crop is currently estimated at 1,888,000 bushels, or about 16 percent more than on the first of August. This compares with 1,269,000 bushels harvested last year and the 1941-50 average of 1,090,000 bushels. Timely rains during the past month have helped in the sustaining and sizing of the crop, which set heavily this year. However, the size of the fruit is below normal this season, particularly in the heavy-producing Henderson County area where setting was unusually heavy.

Light picking began around mid-August and became active during the last week of the month in Henderson County. Harvesting operations became general in the Brushy Mountain section during the first week of September.

AUGUST RAINS IMPROVE HAY PROSPECTS

Based upon reports received from farmers around the first of September, production of all hay in the State is now estimated at 1,156,000 tons. This is an increase of 15 percent over the outlook on August 1, and compares with 1,225,000 tons saved last year and the 1941-50 average production of 1,266,000 tons.

All late hays have responded well to the rains which have fallen generally over the State since the last days of July. The major increase in total production prospects comes as a result of the great improvements in the lespedeza hay crop. Late cuttings from alfalfa also have been much heavier as a result of the improved moisture situation.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD & PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1951 AND INDICATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1952

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		AVERAGE 1941-50*	HARVESTED 1951	INDICATED 1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	INDICATED 1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	REVISED 1951	INDICATED 1952
		THOUSAND			UNITS			THOUSAND		
NORTH CAROLINA										
CORN, ALL	BU.	2,253	2,181	2,203	26.5	31.0	25.0	59,560	67,611	55,075
WHEAT, ALL	BU.	435	381	377	15.4	23.0	21.0	6,693	8,763	7,917
OATS	BU.	341	402	402	27.6	35.5	35.0	9,495	14,271	14,070
BARLEY	BU.	38	35	34	25.0	36.0	32.0	938	1,260	1,088
RYE	BU.	29	15	14	11.6	14.0	15.0	330	210	210
SORGHUMS, ALL		30	50	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN	BU.	11	33	45	25.8	30.0	23.0	290	990	1,035
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED	LBS.	645.3	738	746	1,120	1,325	1,237	722,736	977,640	922,790
TYPE 11	LBS.	252.3	290	293	1,049	1,170	1,180	267,016	339,300	345,740
TYPE 12	LBS.	316.8	356	360	1,159	1,435	1,280	368,522	510,860	460,800
TYPE 13	LBS.	76.2	92	93	1,137	1,385	1,250	87,198	127,480	116,250
TYPE 31	LBS.	9.7	12.2	12.6	1,420	1,750	1,540	14,098	21,350	19,404
COTTON	LBS.	728	690	693	341	376	353	a/ 523	a/ 542	a/ 510
IRISH POTATOES, ALL	BU.	78	49	49	126	141	118	9,572	6,909	5,782
SWEETPOTATOES, ALL	BU.	65	40	42	106	94	90	6,850	3,760	3,780
SOYBEANS GROWN ALONE		392	439	439	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	243	300	303	12.8	16.5	15.0	3,142	4,950	4,545
PEANUTS GROWN ALONE		293	250	212	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS PICKED & THRESHED	LBS.	276	237	199	1,090	1,330	1,250	299,494	315,210	248,750
HAY, ALL	TONS	1,259	1,214	1,147	1.01	1.01	1.01	1,266	1,225	1,156
CLOVER & TIMOTHY	TONS	89	108	108	1.14	1.10	1.05	102	119	113
ALFALFA HAY	TONS	24	60	59	2.08	2.00	1.90	52	120	112
LESPEDEZA HAY	TONS	499	498	468	1.09	.95	1.00	544	473	468
PASTURE, CONDITION	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	79	76
PEACHES, ALL	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,867	1,806	1,648
APPLES, COMMERCIAL	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,090	1,269	1,888
PEARS	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	202	154	163
GRAPES	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	3.2	2.9
PECANS, ALL	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,414	2,435	2,470
UNITED STATES										
CORN, ALL	BU.	86,909	81,306	82,232	34.7	36.2	38.7	3,011,652	2,941,423	3,185,237
WHEAT, ALL	BU.	45,245	39,762	50,278	17.7	16.2	21.1	799,977	645,469	1,062,590
OATS	BU.	39,667	36,454	38,682	33.0	36.1	32.7	1,310,736	1,316,396	1,263,886
BARLEY	BU.	12,315	9,391	8,226	24.9	27.1	26.9	306,127	254,668	221,138
RYE	BU.	2,294	1,733	1,350	12.1	12.4	11.7	28,095	21,410	15,759
SORGHUMS, ALL		14,499	13,921	12,621	-	-	-	-	-	-
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN	BU.	7,100	8,449	5,229	18.4	18.9	13.8	132,598	159,265	72,377
TOBACCO, ALL	LBS.	1,630.1	1,781.4	1,789.8	1,124	1,307	1,235	1,841,869	2,328,226	2,210,435
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED	LBS.	957.6	1,113.1	1,125.6	1,103	1,304	1,226	1,064,300	1,451,965	1,380,120
COTTON	LBS.	21,533	26,687	24,693	267.6	271.9	270	a/ 11,775	a/ 15,144	a/ 13,889
IRISH POTATOES, ALL	BU.	2,401.0	1,353.1	1,418.2	180.4	240.7	238.0	414,525	325,708	337,685
SWEETPOTATOES	BU.	625.0	308.0	337.7	93.0	91.8	87.9	57.703	28,278	29,669
SOYBEANS GROWN ALONE		12,788	14,838	15,291	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS	BU.	10,349	13,211	13,906	19.4	21.2	19.8	202,068	280,512	275,929
PEANUTS GROWN ALONE		3,650	2,597	2,046	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS PICKED & THRESHED	LBS.	2,940	2,018	1,665	708	831	714	2,042,448	1,676,125	1,188,225
HAY, ALL	TONS	74,536	74,718	75,400	1.36	1.45	1.36	101,072	108,461	102,417
ALFALFA	TONS	15,562	18,969	19,075	2.20	2.26	2.15	34,283	42,937	41,089
CLOVER & TIMOTHY	TONS	21,934	21,457	21,632	1.38	1.49	1.44	30,242	32,035	31,043
LESPEDEZA	TONS	6,484	6,990	6,912	1.07	1.07	.81	6,926	7,479	5,590
PASTURE, CONDITION	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	86	70
PEACHES	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,186	63,627	61,626
APPLES	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,380	110,660	98,058
PEARS	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,306	30,028	29,833
GRAPES	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,807.7	3,385.8	3,026.8
PECANS, ALL	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	123,206	154,895	125,566

a/ 500 lb. gross weight bales.

* Includes Government purchases from unharvested areas in 1948.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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AUGUST WEATHER SUMMARY

In direct contrast to the previous months of this growing season, August was cloudy and damp, with mild temperatures. The sun shone only about half of the daylight hours, and unbroken sunshine was the rule on only three days of the month. Rain fell somewhere in the State on all but those days, and many local areas had more than twenty days with rain. Outstanding features of the month's weather were the two tropical storms which passed across the State during the last four days. The first was a small storm which moved inland near the North Carolina-South Carolina line on the 28th, and passed rapidly northwestward across North Carolina. The second was a hurricane that entered the southern South Carolina coast on the 31st and moved northward across both Carolinas.

Up until the arrival of the first of these storms, August had not been rainier than usual. Heavy rains fell on the 1st; since that time showers had been frequent in most areas, but were scattered and not generally heavy. The storm of the 28th brought an average of an inch or more of rain, and was followed by two days of showery summer weather. Finally, the storm of the 31st brought the heaviest rains of the season to most parts of North Carolina. Amounts up to six inches fell within a few hours time in that part of the southeastern Piedmont and adjoining Coastal Plain where the Storm entered the State, tapering off to about three inches in the northern Piedmont, and to less than one inch on the coast and on the Western slopes of the Mountains. Totals for the month range from less than three to nearly fifteen inches.

Temperatures in August averaged near or a little above long-term averages for the late-summer month, with no unusual extremes in either direction. The hottest weather occurred during about a week following the 10th of the month, when 90 degree readings were a daily occurrence in most areas. The coolest morning was on or about the 25th, when many inland places dropped to the low or middle fifties.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 1951-52*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. POUNDS		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. POUNDS	
CATTLE..	8.2	9.1	6,503	6,976	1,287.1	1,498.5	1,222,394	1,426,071
CALVES..	4.5	4.9	727	806	665.4	719.3	152,926	168,178
SHEEP & LAMBS	.3	.3	27	29	950.8	1,024.6	88,402	91,905
HOGS....	39.0	55.0	8,976	11,427	4,670.3	4,658.9	1,244,904	1,184,494

** Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter - averages are based on unrounded numbers*

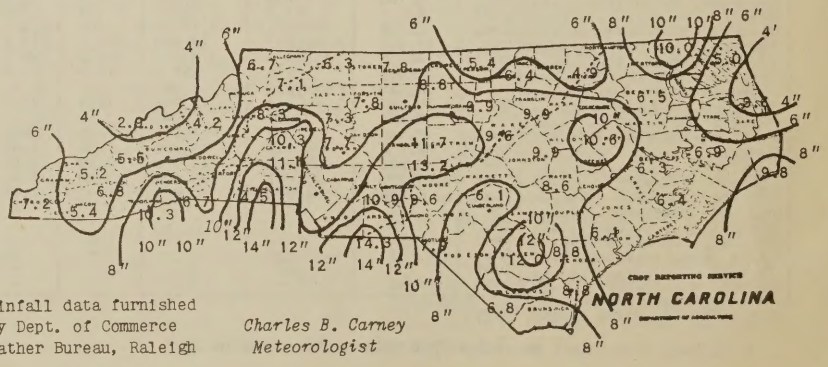
BEEF SLAUGHTER SHOWS GAIN IN JULY

North Carolina's commercial slaughtering plants slaughtered a total of 17,238,000 pounds liveweight of meat animals during the month of July. This is a decline of 7 percent from total liveweight slaughtered in June but is a 13 percent gain over livestock slaughtered in July a year ago.

Of the total liveweight slaughtered during July this year hogs totaled 11,427,000 pounds - - a slight decline from June slaughter but still at the record high level established this year. Slaughter of cattle showed an increase of 18 percent from June totaling 6,976,000 pounds liveweight compared with 5,918,000 in June. Liveweight of calves slaughtered was down 4 percent from a month ago. with sheep slaughter showing considerable increase.

The number of animals slaughtered during July totaled 69,300 head or a gain of only 900 head from a month ago. This increase in numbers slaughtered occurred mostly in cattle with some gain in sheep being made.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING AUGUST, 1952



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

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